

Clair F. and Jean Shank House
300 Wordsworth Avenue
Llyswen Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5912

HABS
PA
7-ALTO
148-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CLAIR F. AND JEAN SHANK HOUSE

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Location: 300 Wordsworth Avenue

Date of Erection: 1966

Description: The upper level of this side-gable contemporary tri-level is clad in masonite siding; the ground level is brick-cased. The one-story north extension incorporates a secondary entry and a two-car garage with an overhead garage door. The two main rooms on the upstairs front of the house cantilever over the ground floor. The entry, recessed into the facade and sheltered by a generous roof overhang, has double two-panel doors with contrasting molding. Window shutters are similarly decorated, and enhance the width of the already oversized front windows. The front walk leads from the entry across the front of the house to the driveway. Garages and driveways are integral to the street aspects of many of the houses of this period in Llyswen, most of which are on Wordsworth Avenue.

History: This house was built in 1966 for Clair F. and Jean Shank, who purchased both this lot and the neighboring one at 130 Wordsworth Ave. from the Baker Estates for \$2,600 early that year. In 1969, they added a 20' x 40' swimming pool to the back yard. The present owners acquired it in 1981 for \$61,000.

Sources: City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 382/405, 537/433, 537/436, 844/426, 1019/406, 1064/241.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.